

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 NEA-10 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01

RSR-01 /086 W

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O 121705 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8724

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY NIACT IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDOCOAIRSOUTH NAPLES NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES NIACT IMMEDIATE

16 TH AF TORREJON AB SPAIN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3766

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, IT SP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF HIGH LEVEL SPANISH OFFICIALS TO NAPLES

REFERENCE: A) USDOCOAIRSOUTH DTG 121300 Z MAY (NOTAL; B) ROME 3712

1. REF A INFORMS EMBASSY FOR FIRST TIME OF PLANS TO HAVE COMMANDER 16 TH AF IN NAPLES INVITE SENIOR SPANISH OFFICIALS TO NAPLES IN JUNE OR JULY FOR DISCUSSIONS ON 16 TH AF MATTERS. REFERENCES TO OTHER MESSAGES IN REF A INDICATE PLANNING ON SUBJECT HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS.

2. WE FIND IT NOTHING SHORT OF ASTONISHING THAT CONCERNED MILITARY COMMANDS PLANNED ON HAVING COMAIRSOUTH -- WEARING HIS US HAT-- INVITE HIGH RANKING SPANISH OFFICIALS TO NAPLES (INCLUDING -- WE UNDERSTAND -- THE DEFENSE MINISTER) WITHOUT CONSULTING WITH THIS EMBASSY AT THE OUTSET. IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE ANYONE NOT
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RECOGNIZING THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE SOME SMALL INTEREST

IN THE MATTER. CONSIDERING THE STRONG ITALIAN REACTION TO WHAT WAS ADMITTEDLY A RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS RELEASE ON DUAL-

HATTING (REF B), WE TRUST IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SUCH INVITATIONS ISSUED BY ANY US MILITARY COMMANDER COULD SERIOUSLY EMBARRASS THE GOI.

3. IN THE FUTURE, WHEN CONSIDERING ACTIONS INVOLVING SPAIN THAT IMPINGE ON ITALY, WE SHOULD ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THE EXTREME, POLITICAL

SENSITIVITY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO ITS RELATIONS WITH MADRID. THE GOI IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH US UP TO A POINT IN IMPROVING SPANISH LINKS WITH NATO, E. G., NAVOCFORMED CALL AT BARCELONA AND DUAL- HATTING, BUT WILL PROBABLY DRAW THE LINE AT ANYTHING SO VISIBLE AS THE PROPOSED HIGH- LEVEL SPANISH VISITS TO NAPLES. AT A MINIMUM, COURTESY AND GOOD SENSE DEMAND THAT WE CONSULT

WITH GOI BEFORE ISSUING ANY SUCH INVITATIONS. TO IGNORE THIS PROCEDURE WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE CURRENT, ALMOST UNIQUE, COOPERATIVE

ATTITUDE OF THE GOI TOWARDS US MILITARY PROPOSALS INVOLVING ITALY (LAMADDALENA, PROJECT FENDER, ETC.). GIVEN THE SITUATION IN THE MED THESE DAYS, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ENDANGER THE ACCESS WE NOW HAVE TO

ITALIAN FACILITIES. THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, ALTERNATIVE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO US.

4. IT IS ASSUMED THAT NO REPEAT NO INVITATIONS WILL BE ISSUED TO SPANISH OFFIALS ON MAY 14. VOLPE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME03766
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730545/aaaajggi.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ROME 3712
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980213
Subject: VISIT OF HIGH LEVEL SPANISH OFFICIALS TO NAPLES
TAGS: OTRA, IT, SP
To: EUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005